



The United States Army Band

"Pershing's Own"

Colonel Gary F. Lamb

Leader & Commander

The U.S. Army Tuba/Euphonium Quartet

In 1981, four members of the tuba and euphonium sections of the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" decided to form a quartet in order to explore the new expanding repertoire for such a unique ensemble. Today, though the members have changed and the "novelty" of accompanimental instruments playing melody has worn off, the quartet is more sought after than ever as they lead the low-brass quartet genre into the 21st century.

Perhaps one of the most versatile of tuba/euphonium quartets, the Army Band's ensemble regularly switches instruments to best accommodate the demanding musical tasks at hand. The group takes the usual appearance of two euphoniums, one bass tuba, and one contrabass tuba but can also leap drastically to a lighter sound (3 euph.'s + 1 bass tuba) or a darker sonority (2 euph.'s + 2 contrabass tubas).

The most striking element of the ensemble, however, is certainly their widely diverse, unequaled repertoire. Naturally, they regularly perform plenty of innovative arrangements and transcriptions from every musical era, but they pride themselves primarily with their willingness to bring works originally written for their specific instrumentation to the fore. Moreover, the quartet frequently performs new works that challenge both the individual performer and the low-brass quartet genre as a whole. Thus, bringing some of these magnificent original works to the public has been one of the quartet's primary goals.

Having just finished a tour to music schools and universities in Kansas and Nebraska, the U.S. Army Tuba/Euphonium Quartet is a quantity regularly in demand for clinics, masterclasses, and town concerts across the continental United States. In addition to appearances at the past two Army Band Tuba/Euphonium Conferences and at the 1998 Colonial Euphonium-Tuba Institute (C.E.T.I.), they are currently in the planning stages for a fall tour to south-eastern universities. From Washinton, D.C. to the farthest reaches of America, each of their critically acclaimed appearances embody the sole ideal of the quartet: that is, to showcase an unparalleled level of virtuosity, versatility, and musicality in an extraordinarily rich repertoire, while keeping with the highest standards of performance in chamber music.

EUPHONIUM

Sgt. 1st Class Bob Powers: from Virginia Beach, Virginia; attended Old Dominion University & Virginia Commonwealth University; member of the U.S. Army Band since 1980.

Sgt. 1st Class Don Palmire: from Penney Farms, Florida; attended Luther Rice Bible College & Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; member of the U.S. Army Band since 1994.

TUBA

Staff Sgt. Jon Voth: from Hutchinson, Kansas; attended Wichita State University & The University of New Mexico; member of the U.S. Army Band since 1997.

Staff Sgt. Tom Bratten: from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; attended Asbury College, The University of Kentucky & The University of Georgia; member of the U.S. Army Band since 1999.

For more information:

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